Study or Mahanadi basin

3189. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the -Minister of PETROLEUM, AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanadi basin is widely considered to have vast reserves of oil and gas in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has ever conducted a scientific study on it; and

(c) if so, the details of the study?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No reserves of hydrocarbons have been established in Mahanadi basin.

However, in the past, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) initiated exploration in Mahanadi basin during late 1960s and carried out Gravity Magnetic Survey measuring 8642 stations followed by 313 Line Kilometers (LKM) 2-D seismic survey in the onland part of the basin. Oil India Ltd. (OIL) started exploration work in Mahanadi basin in 1978 and collected about 14250 LKM of 2-D survey data, 3343 LKM of 3D seismic data, 1575 LKM of deep seismic sounding data, Aeromagnetic and Gravity Magnetic Surveys and 4980 LKM of Geo-chemical Survey and drilled four wells in onland areas and 11 wells in offshore areas including North-East coast basin.

In last two years, six blocks have been awarded to various public sector and private sector oil companies in the offshore and onshore areas of Mahanadi basin in the first and second rounds of offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-I&II). A total of 4182 LKM 2D seismic data has been acquired by the oil companies in these blocks.